The problem isn't spending.

The total cost of the Medicaid program is about the same as it was five years ago.

Nothing "new" about this approach.

For the past 15 years hospitals – at their own request – paid part of the state's Medicaid match through provider fees in order to maximize federal reimbursements and distributions.

What's changed?

Provider fees in 1993 and 2001, as well as changes in other years, were all enacted by the Legislature, and no one referred then to the fees being a "tax on sick people."

Federal rules change created shortfall.

A change in federal guidelines disallowed part of the funding method, thus creating a \$90 million shortfall in the state's share.

Provider fees are essential.

Provider fees make up 30% of the state's Medicaid match money.

Without these assessments, funding Medicaid would amount to a \$300 million tax increase on Mississippi taxpayers.

SB 2013 ensures
that hospitals pay their fair share
to fund Medicaid — like they have
for the past 15 years.

Hospitals will get \$6 back for every \$1 paid in.

Would increase the assessment hospitals already pay by only .0061 of the hospitals' gross revenue.

This compromise passed the Senate on an overwhelming, bipartisan vote of 41-to-7, with the support of a majority of Democrats and members of the Black Caucus.

Why not use the "Rainy Day Fund?"

The Rainy Day Fund was designed as a cushion for state revenue during periods of economic uncertainty — not to cover recurring deficits in Medicaid.

Why not use the "Rainy Day Fund?"

In Fiscal Year 2008, Mississippi spent \$7.5 million more than was available in revenues.

With concerns that the national economy is weakening, we must ensure our state can successfully weather any downturn by keeping our Rainy Day Fund intact.

The cost of continued delay is severe.

Delaying cuts until August costs Medicaid or taxpayers \$1.13 million every day.

Delaying cuts until February costs Medicaid or taxpayers \$2.5 million every day.

The time to act is now.

SB 2013 stands alone as the only fair, permanent, sustainable funding solution for Medicaid.